



## **Bazel F. Lazear Papers (C1014)**

**Collection Number:** C1014

**Collection Title:** Bazel F. Lazear Papers

**Dates:** 1851-1904

**Creator:** Lazear, Bazel F., 1823-1894

**Abstract:** Correspondence to wife while on duty with Missouri State Militia during the Civil War; encounters with guerrilla forces; battle descriptions; and personal relations with fellow soldiers. Also letter to wife from California gold fields, 1851; letters about his dismissal from job with Railway Mail Service; and letters about his Civil War pension claim.

**Collection Size:** 0.31 cubic feet  
(15 folders)

**Language:** Collection materials are in English.

**Repository:** The State Historical Society of Missouri

**Restrictions on Access:** Collection is open for research. This collection is available at [The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Columbia](https://www.shsmo.org/research-center-columbia). If you would like more information, please contact us at [columbia@shsmo.org](mailto:columbia@shsmo.org). Collections may be viewed at any research center.

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**Preferred Citation:** [Specific item; box number; folder number] *Bazel F. Lazear Papers* (C1014); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Columbia [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-Columbia].

**Donor Information:** The papers were purchased from the Hoosier Bookshop by the State Historical Society of Missouri in April 1946.

**Processed by:** Processed by the State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center- Columbia Staff, date unknown. Finding aid revised by Erin Kraus on April 27, 2020.

**Biographical Note:**

Bazel F. Lazear (1823-1894) served as a Lt. Col. in the Missouri State Militia from 1861 to 1865. After the war he was a postal clerk at least 10 years with the Railway Mail Service and finally retired as postmaster of Auxvasse, Missouri.

**Arrangement:**

The collection has been arranged chronologically.

**Scope and Content Note:**

The collection contains letters from Lazear to his wife from the California gold fields, 1851, and Civil War letters to his wife, relating to battles and encounters with Confederate guerrillas. Later, letters related to his employment with the Railway Mail Service, position of postmaster of Auxvasse, Missouri, Civil War pension claims, and a request for battle sketches for a book. More complete folder descriptions are located in the container list.

**Container List:**

- f. 1 Letter to wife while prospecting for gold in California; postmaster appointment certificate; Civil War letters to wife, battle descriptions and mentions desertions to the South.
- f. 2-4 Civil War correspondence to wife: thefts among Union soldiers, smallpox, guerrilla activities; description of Warrensburg and Independence; family relations; Ordnance Stores Reports.
- f. 5 Pursuit of and encounters with Quantrill's men and other guerrillas; comments on Order Number 11; description of refugees; battle with Shelby's forces along the Lamine River; description of Warrensburg. Letter from H.R. Gamble requesting capture of a guerrilla band.
- f. 6 Accusations and counter-accusations regarding competence as officer; letter of commendation; impressions of Jefferson City; family business.
- f. 7 Guerrilla activity intensified; trouble with superior officers; family affairs.
- f. 8 Guerrilla encounters in Marshall; description of results of guerrilla raids in Frankford and Marshall; Ordnance Stores Reports.
- f. 9-11 Citizens of Saline and Lafayette Counties accuse Lazear's men of robbery and looting; battle against Price; description of Battle of Osage; guerrilla activity; reasons for desire to stay in service; certificate of service; question of eligibility for mustering-out pay; family affairs.
- f. 12-14 Correspondence about Lazear's dismissal from job with Railway Mail Service and attempts for reinstatement; appointment as Postmaster, Auxvasse, Missouri; correspondence dealing with Civil War pension claim.
- f. 15 Request for sketch of battles with Shelby and Price for use in book; office correspondence; warranty deed for tract of land in Auxvasse, Missouri; widow's application for accrued pension; farm; letter and questionnaire offering help in establishing pension claim for a fee.

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